



Service Matters

FOCUSED Growth Leads to Complete Communities

Approximately 200 Bay Area elected officials and civic leaders participated in the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) 2008 Spring General Assembly, sharing best practices and viewpoints on the opportunities, challenges, and innovative strategies related to the FOCUS Initiative and Priority Development Areas (PDAs). Opening with a spirited host city welcome from **San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom**, the conference was facilitated by **ABAG President and San Mateo County Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson** who set the day's theme, "We will examine what *Focused Growth* means to local governments and our region and how PDA infill development can shape complete communities."



San Francisco Mayor
Gavin Newsom

The conference featured author **William Fulton**, Solimar Research Group President/CEO and City of Ventura Deputy Mayor, and **William Fleissig**, Communitas Development President. Fulton in his keynote address captured the trends of housing growth and urban villages, comparing Bay Area trends to other regions in California. "The role of local and regional government to direct growth and change was never more important," he said and added, "People confuse growth with change. There may be a no growth scenario, but that doesn't mean no change. So you must frame your community debate around quality of life, not about numbers, but about the future desired."



Keynote Presenter: William Fulton, Ventura Deputy Mayor and Solimar Research Group President

strategies to reduce VMT (vehicle miles traveled),

CO2 and energy consumption. He talked about "restorative growth" and challenged that "75 to 80 percent of new growth should be TOD (transit oriented development) to help alter the fundamental equation between growth of VMT and new development."



William Fleissig,
Communitas Development
President

A panel of local elected leaders explored specific focused growth land use strategies, examining how the needs of existing communities are being addressed through PDA infill development that provides access to transit, jobs,



Walnut Creek Mayor Gwen Regalia (left) receives first Distinguished Leadership Award at GA—ABAG President Rose Jacobs Gibson (center), ABAG Vice President Mark Green, Growing Smarter Together Awards Judge (right)

shopping, and services. Moderated by Solano County Jim Sperring, the panel included **Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia**, **San Francisco County Supervisor Sophie Maxwell**, **San Leandro Vice Mayor Surlene Grant**, and **Redwood City Councilmember Barbara Pierce**.

Supervisor Gioia highlighted Contra Costa County PDAs such as North Richmond and the complex infill opportunities for building healthy communities in these areas. **Supervisor Maxwell** spotlighted Bayview-Hunters Point and Portola neighborhoods, noting the seven years of ongoing planning and community engagement and economic issues related to industrial land use. **Councilmember Pierce** showed how Redwood City's

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ABAG Spring General Assembly; Growing Smarter Together Awards

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downtown PDA plan successfully spelled out community intent to help design their growth, mixed-use and density. **Vice Mayor Grant** cited the San Leandro Downtown Transit Oriented Development Strategy with its benefits and success linked to significant community involvement. All speakers agreed and reiterated that successfully engaging the community in the PDA planning was crucial to focused growth efforts and in creating complete communities.

The conference also included an ABAG Business Session where member city and county delegates approved the ABAG Budget and Work Plan—Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The proceedings concluded with the presentation of the **2008 Growing Smarter Together Awards** by ABAG President Rose Jacobs Gibson, and ABAG Vice President and Union City Mayor Mark Green. *The comprehensive keynote presentations made by William Fulton and William Fleissig are available online as powerpoints at www.abag.ca.gov/planning.*

2008 Growing Smarter Together Award Winners

Distinguished leadership, innovative approaches, and significant local government achievements in collaborating to build complete communities and improve the quality of life in the Bay Area were recognized at ABAG's Spring General Assembly during the second annual *Growing Smarter Together Awards* ceremony. Four 2008 *Growing Smarter Together* awards were presented:



The **Start It Up Award** to the City of San Leandro:

for its Downtown Transit-Oriented Development Strategy to revitalize their downtown with a walkable, mixed-use housing and business development. Extensive public involvement and community engagement helped create San Leandro's innovative long term vision. **Pictured:** Left— San Leandro Mayor Tony Santos accepting award, ABAG President Rose Jacobs Gibson, and from San Leandro Tom Liao, Planning Manager Kathleen Livermore, and Community Development Director Luke Sims.

The **On the Ground—Getting It Done** award to the City of Hercules:

to recognize the significant progress that the city has made in implementing its Plan and Regulating Code. The Plan for Central Hercules and its Regulating Code are significant for the high level of public involvement in planning the development, and for guiding development decisions to achieve greater density, mix of uses, walkability, public spaces, and regional transit mobility in Hercules. **Pictured:** From Hercules: Councilmember Kris Valstad, Councilmember Charlene Raines, Mayor Joanne Ward accepting award, Councilmember Ed Balico, Vice Mayor Joe Eddy McDonald with ABAG President Rose Jacobs Gibson (second from right).



Public-Private Partnership Award given **jointly** to:

The City of Dublin, Alameda County Surplus Property Authority, and, Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) for their collaboration on the Dublin Transit Center. Their ground-breaking work and partnership is behind the creation of a significant transit-oriented community in Dublin. **Pictured:** Accepting the Award for Alameda County Surplus Authority, Supervisor Scott Haggerty (left), for BART, BART Board President Gail Murray (center), and for City of Dublin, Mayor Janet Lockhart (right).

The First Recipient of **Distinguished Leadership** award: **Gwen Regalia**, Walnut Creek Mayor and Past ABAG President

for her distinguished public service career and her unsurpassed commitment to sustainable community improvement and focused smart growth on the local, regional, and state level **Pictured:** ABAG Executive Director Henry Gardner, award winner Mayor Gwen Regalia, Walnut Creek City Manager Gary Pokorny.



The *Growing Smarter Together* award winners were showcased at the General Assembly in a special video produced by Comcast. Corporate sponsor PG&E joined Comcast to help underwrite the awards program. Video can be viewed at www.abag.ca.gov/smarter.html.

Proposition 13 at 30: The Political, Economic and Fiscal Impacts

The political, economic and fiscal impacts of Proposition 13 will be the subject of a major one-day conference at UC Berkeley on **June 6, 2008**. Sponsored by UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS), the UC San Diego Department of Sociology, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Stanford University Press, this free conference marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of California's Proposition 13 and examines the legacy of this revolutionary amendment to the state constitution. Proposition 13 imposed a 1% cap on the local property tax rate for Californians and launched a national tax revolt movement. The fiscal impact of Proposition 13 on California local governments has been dramatic. Three panels featuring a wide range of experts in the fiscal, economic, social, and political ramifications of this watershed tax movement will highlight the conference.

Open to the public with no advance registration required, the conference will be held on the UC Berkeley campus in the Lipman Room (8th floor of Barrows Hall), from 9 am to 5.30 pm. *For complete agenda, visit the IGS website: igs.berkeley.edu; or call (510) 642-1474.*

Grant Funding Available for Community Participation

Through an Environmental Justice Grant from Caltrans, ABAG has begun a **Development without Displacement program** to increase regional and local understanding of gentrification and displacement, and in particular increase awareness of equitable development policies that jurisdictions can use to capture the benefits of new growth for their current residents. As part of the program and ongoing efforts to secure financial incentives and provide technical assistance to designated Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), ABAG will award one to three grants for a total of \$100,000. The grants will fund a city or county and community-based organization working jointly to engage local residents in identifying the pressures they face due to gentrification and what programs and policies could help to stabilize the neighborhood. Grant applications are now being accepted. Download application guidelines and materials at www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/incentives.html#equity.

All application materials must be received at ABAG by 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 13, 2008. *For additional information, please contact Marisa Cravens, ABAG Regional Planner, at 510.464.7926 or MarisaC@abag.ca.gov.*

ABAG Energy Watch Awarded for Low Carbon IT Efforts

The ABAG Energy Watch Program was recognized by the United States Environment Protection Agency (EPA) for assisting local governments in implementing the nationwide Energy Star Low Carbon IT Campaign. EPA's ENERGY STAR Low Carbon IT Campaign promotes the enabling of the power management, or sleep mode, on computers and monitors. This simple step reduces the energy consumed by computers and monitors, and as a result helps reduce the nation's growing demand for electricity, saves organizations money, and helps fight global warming.

ABAG Energy Watch helps Bay Area local governments identify, fund, and implement energy and cost saving



projects, such as enabling a sleep mode on computers. The following Bay Area governments just by enabling computer power management will experience an estimated annual savings of:

City of San Mateo	10,100 kWh
County of San Mateo	14,700 kWh
City of San Jose	1,193,400 kWh
City of San Leandro	105,800 kWh
City of Rohnert Park	18,900 kWh

It is estimated that if all office computers and monitors in the U.S. were set to sleep when not being used, the country could save more than 44 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) or \$4 billion worth of electricity and avoid the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of about 5 million cars each year. *Information about ABAG Energy Watch is available at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/abagenergywatch/> or by contacting Jerry Lahr, Project Manager at 510/464-7908 or jlahr@abag.ca.gov. Information about ENERGY STAR Low Carbon IT Campaign is available at www.energystar.gov/lowcarbonit.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MAY 2008

May 9

Priority Development Area (PDA)

Funding Criteria

FOCUS PDA Speaker

Series

9:30 am

Pier 1, The Embarcadero,
San Francisco

May 15

Legislation & Governmental

Organization Committee

3:30 pm

MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

Finance & Personnel

Committee

5:00 pm

MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

ABAG Executive Board

7:00 pm

MetroCenter, Auditorium

May 16

ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint

Policy Committee

10:00 am

MetroCenter, Auditorium

JUNE 2008

June 4

Regional Planning

Committee (RPC)

1:00 pm

MetroCenter, Auditorium

June 5

FOCUS on Housing

FOCUS: 2008 Regional best

practices Conference

Series

8:15 am

Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way,
Berkeley

June 12

Bay Trail Steering

Committee

1:30 pm

MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

June 18

ABAG POWER

Executive Committee

12:00 pm

MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Rm. B

June 20

Urban Landscapes

FOCUS PDA Speaker

Series

9:30 am

Pier 1, The Embarcadero,
San Francisco

June 27

Regional Airport Planning

Committee

9:30 am

MetroCenter, Auditorium

Notable Numbers

Energy Efficiency for Local Governments

30 percent

of a building's operating costs can be attributed to energy use such as lighting, heating, and cooling.

30 percent

reduction in energy use can lower building operating costs by \$25,000 per year for every 50,000 square feet of office space.

20 percent

less energy use can be achieved by retrofitting standard fluorescent lamps with third generation T8 lamps and efficient electronic ballasts.

30 to 40 percent

reduction in energy use can be achieved by installing an energy management system (EMS) that provides optimum equipment start/stop times and other controls.

90 percent

less energy is required to operate a laptop computer, as compared to a standard desktop computer.

80 percent

of the electricity cost to operate traffic lights can be reduced in cities by replacing incandescent traffic lights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) arrays.

Numbers from the U.S. Department of Energy, Flex Your Power, and ABAG Energy Watch.

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Supervisor, San Mateo County

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ABAG Vice President
Mayor, Union City

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